

BRAC-133 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2010, 4 – 6:30pm
City Hall, Room 2000

Members Present:

Kerry Donley
Rich Baier
Abi Lerner
Jim Turkel
Paul McMahon
Dave Dexter
Donna Fossum
Jayme Blakesley
Don Buch

Introductions were made and Rich Baier reviewed the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee, which is to identify what is needed to add to and modify in the draft TMP.

Abi Lerner stated that WHS has agreed to include some of the requested changes, but the City is hoping that some of the issues will be added now instead of later. He also said that we know that there is not an unlimited amount of money and that the transit strategies are incomplete.

Don Buch stated his concern that we haven't defined the problem. He believes the numbers in the TMP don't necessarily represent reality. Paul McMahon stated that the data is good and the research is good. The consultants have worked with staff in development of the TMP and they erroneously did not include support staff in the numbers. They are also sending out a new survey next month.

Dave Dexter stated that we need the basic structure of buses and shuttles now. Abi said we know that the target is 40% non-SOV usage, but we do not believe we are there yet. Paul said that they will continue to disagree that the Plan will not support 23% transit. They have included a large amount of over-capacity in the plan.

Abi stated that the City had suggested bringing buses from Southern Towers over to Mark Center. Kerry Donley agreed that we are trying to remove the obstacle of crossing the street and that it would require coordination with WMATA. Abi agreed that City staff had met with WMATA and WMATA had indicated that it would be doable. Paul stated that he was not sure that the change in the bus schedule could be paid for by DoD.

Dave stated that the current bus service was very efficient and diverting the buses would cause a disservice to West End residents. Kerry clarified that he saw the change as an extension of the routes so as not to cause disruption to current service. Paul indicated that the extension would have to become part of the shuttle system and stated that they are in conversation with IDA to cover costs. He reiterated that a signalized pedestrian

crossing exists at the intersection. Donna Fossum stated that it is not an ideal crossing. Paul agreed that they would look at extending the 7 WMATA route, but acknowledged that there may be legal issues that limit the possibility. Kerry stated that it was a deadhead bus route with sunk costs already, so cost shouldn't be too much of a factor and the City would talk with WMATA about the legalities. Paul confirmed that this bus change would replace certain shuttles. Rich stated that the Plan should start larger with regard to shuttles and go smaller based on usage. Abi confirmed with Paul that the Army is already running the cost numbers on replacing the shuttles with transit.

Paul confirmed that the shuttles will be running all day with lesser frequency outside of peak hours and that there is on-site dining to reduce mid day trips. Rich stated that the City would like to be in accordance with the expected plan and wants to make sure that our buses are incorporated. Abi said that it is more efficient to offer more frequent transit rather than shuttles, plus it provides better service overall for residents.

Paul sees no benefit in running a shuttle from Van Dorn, as the numbers of users aren't there. Rich stated that the shuttle is needed, and Jayme pointed out that the Plan is missing the employees that live close to the site. Paul does not believe that WHS should be compensating DASH for service provided to City residents. Paul confirmed that WHS will look at Springfield/Franconia before the TMP goes final on July 30 and if demand goes up at Van Dorn, they will revisit it in the annual review. Paul confirmed that WHS will look at using DASH from the King Street Metro. Paul also stated that they may have used an MOU in Arlington with EPA and ART.

Paul and Jim confirmed that the target headways are ten minutes in the peak period and there is an area to park for overnight employees. Kerry restated that WHS will analyze Springfield/Franconia at ten minute headways for the peak period. Dave confirmed that the shuttles will come down Van Dorn, and Abi asked Paul to bring a map with the proposed routes.

The City voiced concern that the Mobile Commuter Store (MCS) is not sufficient. Paul is content with having the MCS twice a week and focusing on the Transportation Coordinator (TC) to work with employees through a transit store. Rich stated that it would be helpful to have the MCS daily in the beginning. Paul stated that the TC will provide information and coordination help, will monitor usage, and conduct six month and then annual surveys. Paul confirmed that the transit store will have published hours, will be open during core hours on a regular basis, and have a multi-person staff. WHS anticipates that the transit store will continue in this manner for a sufficient period of time. Paul stated that if demand warrants it, they will look at a permanent store, but are solidly with the MCS right now. WHS will begin reaching out to employees nine months in advance to work with them on establishing commuting routes. Paul confirmed that at the start, the transit store will be staffed during core hours.

Don asked whether the TMP becomes a requirement. Paul answered that it will not become a requirement, but it is the WHS's intent to implement it. Jim said the Army is looking at firming up the language in the TMP.

Abi asked that WHS consider introducing service from Prince William County Park and Ride lots, but Paul does not see that working due to potential legal issues and low demand. The Army believes that the provision of this transit service is not legal because it duplicates mass transit service. Abi asked to look at subsidizing PRTC, but Paul is doubtful that they can. Kerry asked staff to come up with better justification for a PRTC extension if we want WHS to consider it.

Kerry confirmed that the City has had discussions with WMATA about Van Dorn to no avail. Paul agreed to provide responses to the comments next week. Rich asked whether staff can review the Operation Plan. Paul agreed to share the information within two weeks. When asked to validate the EFC and WFC shuttles, Paul answered that they have planned over capacity, but each location has specific issues such as parking, the orange line, and VRE that mandate the need for shuttles from both locations. WHS will look at partnering with NGB to extend existing service from Ballston. Paul agreed that the five bays in the Transportation Center will be tight as the shuttles are using that location. The fallback position will be stacking.

Dave suggested that the slugging area is also tight, and Paul agreed but said it won't be as busy as the Pentagon. Paul confirmed that Lisa will be the contact for transportation issues and that she will start coming to the Ad Hoc Committee meetings.

Paul and Jim stated that there is no intent for follow-up in the TMP to address the proposed Moran legislation.

Abi stated that the City feels cost estimates are necessary and asked about the Army's intent to provide them. Paul doesn't see the benefit to including the cost estimates, but stated that the Army has adequate funding to implement the TMP. Kerry confirmed with Paul that the TMP is driving the budget. WHS will consider providing cost estimates.

Donna asked for a more definitive schedule for what happens when specific to months. Kerry confirmed that there will be a staff to staff meeting on Monday, June 28 and Abi asked for another meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Jayne stated that he would like to discuss paid parking at the next meeting. Paul replied that paid parking will not happen. Jayne would like to see a decision from the City Attorney's office at the next meeting and would like staff to look at other paid government parking.

The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be on July 1 from 5-7pm.

The public hearing on the TMP at the Transportation Commission meeting on July 7th was announced. It was confirmed that addressed comments from WHS will be received by City Staff and posted on the website for public viewing.

A current shuttle driver in attendance stated that the construction traffic at Mark Center has increased headways of the existing shuttles by ten minutes.

Action items:

1. City Staff will talk to WMATA regarding the Route 7 extension to the transportation center.
2. WHS will discuss the Springfield/Franconia option with specifics on numbers of employees.
3. WHS will provide specifics on hours and staffing of the transit store and the Transportation Coordinator.
4. DoD will indicate in the TMP Report that the implementation of the TMP strategies is adequately funded.
5. WHS will provide a definitive schedule for the completion of the TMP report and the implementation of the TMP strategies.
6. WHS will provide written responses to all of the TMP comments.
7. Staff will look at the feasibility of providing transit options from Prince William County and Stafford County.
8. Staff will look at the issue of paid parking at the BRAC facility.